



IDAHO COUNCIL ON
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

VISIONS & VALUES

Volume 20, Issue 2

Spring 2008

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IDAHO DD COUNCIL



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In 1978, the Idaho Legislature passed Senate Bill 1486. It was signed by Governor John Evans and became the Idaho Developmental Disabilities Council Act (Title 67, Chapter 67, Idaho Code). Thirty years later, the Council continues to push for improvements in the services that Idahoans with developmental disabilities want and need to live successful lives, included in their communities.

The Council has been at the center of changes in services and public policy since its beginning. The 1979 Council plan included goals and objectives dealing with developing group homes in each region, studying community acceptance, and deinstitutionalization. Many of the issues then, remain issues today. But there have been some remarkable changes made to

improve the service system for Idahoans with developmental disabilities.

In the 1980s, Idaho State School and Hospital was having problems meeting accreditation standards. The Governor appointed an Ad Hoc committee of Council members to examine these problems and make recommendations. The Council was the leader in developing Personal Care Services (PCS) and provided grants to local entities for supported work and community living projects. The Council also helped with the

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Leader to Watch: Mark Reinhardt

"Understanding Differences", a new radio talk show about disability related topics will soon air on BSU Radio. The man at the microphone will be self-advocate Mark Reinhardt of Boise. Mark is a BSU student who wants to give people with disabilities the opportunity to be heard over the airwaves.

Mark is currently studying computer servicing and repair but he is

most interested in the field of print journalism. He plans to work toward a college degree in communications and build on his dreams. Mark has written position papers on disability topics and he frequently contacts Idaho legislators to share his views about legislation and issues.

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COUNCIL PROJECTS



Council Birthday

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establishment of two new organizations - Idaho Parents Unlimited and the University Affiliated Program (now called the Center on Disabilities and Human Development).

The next decade began with the 1990 Report, a huge undertaking required by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities designed to develop a 10-year blue print for Councils. The 1990s also brought not only the birth of Idaho's Medicaid program but, later in the decade, Governor Batt's Medicaid Reform Advisory Council which gathered information statewide on ways to improve and contain the costs of the program. During this decade, the Council developed two of its most popular publications, *Keys to the Future* and *Journey to Success*. With Council funds, the UAP also developed a resource packet entitled *Finding and Keeping a*

Job. Major Council projects included an integrated day care project, a comprehensive study of transition services, the Home of Your Own program, Partners in Policymaking, and the Family Support Initiative.

The accomplishments of the Council since 2000 are perhaps more familiar - continuing Partners in Policymaking, Determined to Vote training, the establishment of the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network, and the extensive efforts regarding self-determination, including two federal grants to implement self-directed Medicaid waiver services.

The Council has much to be proud of but much more needs to be done. We would like to thank everyone who has been a part of this rich history. Please help us stay in touch with you and share your thoughts regarding your experience with the Council. Go to the Council website (www.icdd.idaho.gov) and click on the survey on the homepage. We look forward to your partnership as we continue to advocate for and with Idahoans with developmental disabilities.

Mark Reinhardt

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The 30-minute radio program "Understanding Differences" will feature interviews with people from all walks of life who are linked to disability experiences, advocacy and services. Mark's first show will feature Kelly Buckland, Executive Director of the Idaho State Independent Living Council. Feedback from listener e-mails and letters is also being planned as a regular weekly feature.

The show will air Sunday afternoons in three different broadcast locations. In Boise, AM 730 will carry the program. In Twin Falls, it can be heard on KEZJ AM 1450 and in McCall on KBSK 89.9 FM. The show will be available on the internet at <http://pulse.boisestate.edu>. Mark invites you to tune in and become a regular listener to "Understanding Differences".



Mark with friends, Manny and Angelina at the Youth Leadership Forum Summit in 2005

Person Center Planning Grant Moves Forward

A Training Coordinator has been hired for the Person Centered Planning (PCP) Grant activities. Meg Gäg (pronounced gog) will be working to develop a curriculum and training for Person Centered Planning Specialists. Meg has experience in education, transition planning and social science research related to support networks and community development. Welcome, Meg! The PCP Grant stakeholder group continues to meet and is planning a statewide person-centered planning institute sometime in early fall of 2008. PCP Specialists will be recruited this fall and training is scheduled to begin in early spring 2009.

COUNCIL PROJECTS

Equal Access Playground Opens in Idaho Falls

Idaho's second universally accessible playground was completed last fall in Tautphaus Park in Idaho Falls. Equal Access Playground joins Adventure Island Playground in Meridian as a community park with accessible play structures for people with disabilities. The Council provided financial support for both projects.

More than 100 community volunteers assembled and built the Idaho Falls playground last August during "Community Build Day". Volunteers did not have to have construction experience, just a desire to roll up their sleeves and work for a good cause. Two local television stations showed news coverage in their evening telecasts.

Idaho Falls Department of Parks and Recreation provided the land and will be maintaining the playground. Parent to Parent, a non-profit organization directed the fundraising efforts and spearheaded the



construction project. Physical therapist Lisa

Hamilton was the principal planner and organizer.

Besides funds from the Council, more than 55 local organizations and individuals donated \$500 or more, with two major donations totaling more than \$25,000 each. "The Game of Idaho Falls", a Monopoly type game was created and sold in the Idaho Falls area. In place of the "Park Place" and "Boardwalk" stops on the board, the game has local business names and attractions.

The playground has already become a favorite attraction for children with and without disabilities, providing opportunities for inclusive play for all. Pictures and information about the playground can be found at www.equalaccessplayground.org.



Teachers and Administrators Tell Us What They Think About Inclusion

148 Idaho teachers and 67 administrators responded to an on-line survey about inclusive education in Idaho schools. The survey is part of Phase 3 of the Inclusion Study being done for the Council by staff at the Center on Disability and Human Development at the U of I. With this survey we hoped to find out what teachers, principals and other school staff think about how to include students with disabilities in regular classroom settings and what the challenges are. Some of the key points we learned from the survey:

- ♦ Teachers feel they need more training on how to include students with disabilities
- ♦ Adapting curriculum and materials takes a lot of time
- ♦ Teachers feel that students with disabilities

benefit from individualized attention outside of the classroom

- ♦ Statewide testing standards have had a negative effect on inclusion
- ♦ Pre-service training (college courses) for teachers needs improvement
- ♦ More classroom support is needed

Parent Survey on Inclusion

The next phase of the study will be to survey parents/families about their ideas of how well their children are included in the classroom and the benefits they see from inclusion. If you are a parent of a child with a disability please fill out the online survey at:

<http://www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=919032>

STATE NEWS



Rulon Gardner signs autographs and poses for photos with youth

**The next Tools for Life
Secondary Transition and
Assistive Technology Fair
will be held Spring 2009
in Coeur d'Alene.**

Tools for Life Another Success

The 4th annual Tools for Life: Secondary Transition and Assistive Technology Conference was held on March 3rd and 4th in Idaho Falls. A record number of people attended the conference this year: 232 students, 41 family members, 93 educators and 138 others enjoyed 50 one-hour presentations on a variety of topics including self-determination, employment, preparing for college, living on your own, assistive technology, plus much more. Some of the highlights were keynote speakers: Olympic gold medal winner Rulon Gardner, LeDerick Horne (who presented via video teleconferencing), Michael O'Bleness, and the Idaho Falls youth panel; a student social with live music and dancing, and an evening parent panel presentation for families. Even with challenges like a power outage, a missing keynote speaker and a waiting list to register, people who attended gave the conference "two thumbs up."



Youth panel was a popular lunch presentation.



Rulon Gardner, conference planner Irene Jones, Miss Idaho Sadie Quigley, and Idaho Falls Mayor Jared Fuhrman



Jacque Hyatt and Janice Carson from the State Department of Education pose with the conference's most popular item - the new Idaho Transition Binder for students with disabilities

STATE NEWS

Mobility 2008 Conference

On April 29-May 1, people from throughout the state came together in Boise for Mobility Idaho 2008, a conference to discuss the future of public transportation in Idaho and how it can meet the demands of all our citizens. Nearly 80 people learned about the Division of Public Transportation's new vision for a coordinated plan, entitled Idaho's Mobility and Access Pathway or IMAP. The IMAP is based on the results of focus groups and over 600 responses to a survey. The vision recognizes the importance of local "spark-plugs", community leaders who can bring people together and, using technical assistance from many sources, develop a local plan for meeting transportation needs. These local plans would be coordinated into a network of district plans which would connect into a statewide plan. All would be based on the needs of the public transportation user.

Presenting at the conference were representatives of federal, state and local programs, including Rick Krochalis, Region 10 Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration, Barb Singleton, United We Ride Region 10 Ambassador, Kelly Buckland, Director of the State Independent Living Council, Dick Armstrong, Director of the Department of Health and Welfare, and Pam Lowe, Director of the Department of Transportation.

Participants had the opportunity to learn about the Medicaid brokerage system, upcoming technology improvements, the different "players" in



public transportation and how they are connected, and opportunities for starting locally to build a sustainable public transportation system.

New Public Transportation Administrator Randy Kyrias called the conference "an inspiring event that resulted in a tidal shift setting a new direction for Idaho's mobility community."

Get a Ride!

Are you a person with a developmental disability who lives in the Magic Valley? Do you need help with transportation? If so, you may want to contact LINC-Magic Valley and take advantage of some funds currently available. The money can be used to help someone go to work, see a movie, visit a friend, go shopping or anything they might like to do. The funds can be used with any of the transportation providers that LINC uses. These transportation funds are only available through September 15. If you or someone you know lives in Twin Falls, Kimberly, Filer, Jerome, Buhl, Shoshone, Gooding, or other towns in that area, contact Melva Heinrich at LINC at 208-733-1717 or Mheinrich@lincidaho.org.



Transition Binder Now Available

"Moving On," the Idaho Transition Binder for youth with disabilities was finished in March by the Idaho Interagency Council on Secondary Transition. The binder is a tool for youth to plan for transition from high school and is a valuable guide for teachers and parents as well. Youth can add their own information to the binder under sections including employment, preparing

for college, independent living, self-advocacy, keeping records, and more. There is also a resource directory with state and national resources listed. The contents of the binder can be downloaded from the DD Council website at www.icdd.idaho.gov or the Idaho Training Clearinghouse at: <http://itcnew.idahotc.com> click on 'Learning Communities' in the left side menu and then 'Secondary Transition.'

EDITORIALS



*Rick Betzer,
Chairperson*

A Long Road to Travel

As we observe our 30 years of service to the people of Idaho, we look back and see many with vision, groundbreakers, who were willing to take those first necessary steps in awakening the public to the prejudice toward people with disabilities and say a heartfelt "thank you"!

Self-advocates, parents, therapists, doctors, teachers, politicians (yes, even politicians!) have played a significant part in helping to improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families locally, as well as at the State and National level. The Americans with Disabilities Act is one example of what can happen when people join together and work for what is right. People who saw something that was wrong and worked to fix it.

I know there are many among us who would say things are still - at least in part - broken. While I wouldn't disagree that there is more yet to do, I encourage everyone to look back at where we were 5, 10, 20 years ago. Look at the

changes that have happened through the combined effort of many. I see the development of the self directed services option as major achievement; the Self Advocate Leadership Network (SALN); the ongoing work toward family directed services; the building of universally accessible playgrounds - these are all significant changes to a system that resists change. Changes to a perception, public and government, years in the making.

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities continues to work to improve community supports, education, employment, health, housing, quality assurance, public awareness and transportation opportunities for people with disabilities. With the support of Local, State, and National elected officials, we will continue to reach new heights.

Our first 30 years have certainly been productive. I would love to say we have accomplished it all - we're done! But, as has been said before, change takes time - I'm sure we'll be here another year or two...



*Jim Baugh,
Council Member*

Aging Parents of People with Disabilities

I read with interest and some dismay the articles on adults with disabilities living with aging parents recently published in the Idaho Statesman. I am the director of Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc. (an advocacy organization for people with disabilities) and the father of an adult son with disabilities who lives with his mother and me, and the brother of another adult with disabilities who lives with my parents. I appreciate the important point made by the articles: that services and supports are so few and so poor that there are no adequate living situations for many adults with

disabilities. I am dismayed by the attitude of the author which seems to be that adults with disabilities are a sort of living tragedy, and an endless burden on their families.

The person with the disability is not the source of the family's burden. It is the fragmented, bureaucratic, and inadequate public service system which creates the awful choices described in the article. Raising any child has the potential for extraordinary joy, fear, happiness, pride, disappointment, success, failure, guilt and satisfaction. Raising a child with a disability is a different journey, but not a better or worse one. Every child is a different experience for a parent. The articles highlight one huge difference.

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EDITORIALS

(Aging Parents continued)

Society in general is constructed to encourage the independence of young adults who do not have disabilities. It does not support the same independence for young adults with disabilities.

Many people with disabilities, like those in the article, need different sorts of supports and services to be able to live in their communities independent of their parents and family members. With the right supports the people in the articles can live a good life in their communities without being dependent on their parents. We know what these supports should look like and how to provide them. Unfortunately, in the name of controlling costs, we have made them impossible or very difficult to obtain.

These services are underfunded, inadequate in amount and tangled in bureaucracy. The bureau-

cracy is designed to insure that no one ever gets more than the barest minimum of services that they need and it often offers much less. Many parents have no information about them and lack the expertise to traverse the maze of assessments, applications, eligibility requirements, rules and appeals needed to get even the inadequate services that are available.

Having raised two wonderful children (one with and one without disabilities), I can tell you the journey is a wonderful one, not a tragedy. We do not need pity or condolences. We need a society which values our sons and daughters like we do, a society which will provide the supports they need to live a good life in the community even after we are gone. It will cost money to solve this problem. It will cost much more to ignore it.

Legislature Ends Frustrating Session

It seems like no matter who you talk to, no one was really pleased with the 2008 legislative session. Economic reports, presented in February, were gloomy. Any plans for any increases in services, provider rates, or staffing, were stopped cold. The exception was buildings. Authority to tear down old buildings and convert others at the state school and build new "community-like" buildings was approved. A new \$70 million "mental health prison" was also authorized, with many advocates protesting the plans to house convicted criminals with those who had not been convicted in one facility.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation sought \$500,000 in additional funding for people on a waiting list for extended employment services. The Council supported that request but wanted to see the funds directed only for community supported employment. Neither prevailed. Although DVR did get funds for an additional staff person to help people write PASS plans, they did not get a request for \$30,000 for expanding epilepsy outreach.

Family-directed services did not require legisla-

tive action to move forward. The Division of Medicaid presented a report on the progress made on this issue in collaboration with the Council and others. Support for the concept appears strong. The Department of Health and Welfare will now begin drafting rules about how this will work.

Once again, this year, some in the legislature tried to enact a pre-school program for 4-year-olds. And once again, it failed. This is an issue that the Council - and most early childhood experts - support strongly.

A bill to allow Idahoans to vote by mail was introduced but held. The Council has opposed this since voters with disabilities can go to the polls and use the Automark machine or can already vote absentee. A bill to allow certain people to have permanent absentee status (so they would not have to apply every year), also was held.

By the end of the session, there was one thing everyone could agree on. It was time for the legislators to go home.

Council Welcomes New Staff - Samantha Wallace

The Council is pleased to welcome our new staff member, Samantha Wallace, as the Office Specialist II. Samantha is married, and recently moved to Boise from Seattle, WA where she worked at the University of Washington as an Administrative Assistant. When you call the Council office Samantha will likely answer the phone. She also keeps busy making meeting and travel arrangements, keeping our files organized, and supporting other office staff.



WHAT'S HAPPENING SUMMER 2008

JUNE

- 4 Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities
- 5 CDHD Community Advisory Committee
- 5 SALN Board Meeting via teleconference
- 9-10 ADD - TA Institute, Washington DC
- 13 Co-Ad Dot Vote Meeting
- 14 Co-Ad Board Meeting
- 15 Father's Day
- 19-20 Board of Education Meeting, Idaho Falls
- 23-27 Youth Leadership Forum, Boise State
- 26-28 Idaho Partners in Policymaking Institute

JULY

- 2 Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities
- 4 Independence Day
- 8 Interagency Workgroup on Public Transportation
- 17-18 State Independent Living Council Meeting
- 23-25 Summer DD Council Meeting

AUGUST

- 6 Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities

SEPTEMBER

- 4-6 SABE National Conference, Indiana
- 18-19 SALN Board Meeting

For updates on issues and more information about Council projects visit our website at:
www.icdd.idaho.gov

To contact the DD Council: Phone: (208) 334-2178, Fax: (208) 334-3417, Email: icdd@icdd.idaho.gov

Costs associated with this publication are available from Dept. of Health & Welfare, DD Council in accordance with §60-202, Idaho Code: 21800C08 92264 5,200 @ .30 5/08

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 BOISE, IDAHO
 PERMIT NO. 37

Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
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 Boise, Idaho 83702

